



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Wilmington, Delaware

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$250,000 over two years) to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years) to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the State of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. DNREC's assessment pilot partner is the City of Wilmington Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The Job Training Pilot will focus on the Southbridge and East Wilmington communities of Wilmington (population 73,000). The two communities (population 8,000) are depressed, inner-city neighborhoods in which two-thirds of the residents are minorities. Unemployment in the two communities is significantly higher than the citywide rate.

The City of Wilmington has a 200-year history of industrial activity. Through the Brownfields Assessment Pilot, the city has identified 126 brownfields. A quarter of the City's lands are brownfields. Assessments conducted by the Brownfields Assessment Pilot are expected to generate six to ten specific remediation projects. The City has a federally designated Enterprise Community that will provide incentives for redevelopment of brownfields. Local environmental contractors have

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Wilmington,
Delaware

Date of Announcement:
December 2001

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will train 50 students as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from the undereducated and underemployed residents of the Southbridge and East Wilmington communities, which have suffered a disproportionate burden from the 126 brownfields identified in the City.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region03/contact.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

expressed interest in hiring local residents trained as environmental technicians to participate in new redevelopment projects.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control plans to train 50 students, achieve an 80% graduation rate, achieve a 75% placement rate among graduates, and support career placement of graduates for one year after the training is completed. Students will be recruited from among undereducated and underemployed residents of the Southbridge and East Wilmington communities. The 152-hour Pilot training program will consist of HAZWOPER, introduction to environmental issues (including 20 hours on innovative and alternative remediation technologies), asbestos worker course, lead abatement worker course, and OSHA construction safety.

The training efforts of DNREC will be supported by organizations such as Delaware Technical and Community College, Delaware Department of Labor, City of Wilmington, New Millennium Community

Development Corporation, Wilmington Enterprise Community, and employers in the environmental consulting field. Delaware Technical and Community College plans to develop a continuing education program to further opportunities for program graduates.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit undereducated and underemployed residents of the Southbridge and East Wilmington communities;
- Conducting training for entry-level positions as brownfields technicians, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.